

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3027

SECDEF WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW357

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0953

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SO, US

SUBJECT: SENATE COMMITTEE BERBERA VISIT: MEETING WITH SIAD

REF: MOGADISCIO 0952

1. SENATOR BARTLETT, ACCCOMPANIED BY MYSELF, BY JIM NOYES OF DOD, AND BY SENATE STAFF MEMBERS SMITH AND REXROAD, MET WITH PRESIDENT SIAD FOR SLIGHTLY OVER TWO HOURS EVENING OF JULY 3. SITTING IN ON SOMALI SIDE WERE MEMBERS OF SUPREME REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (SRC), SOMALI MINISTERS, AND JOURNALISTS NUMBERING SOME TWENTY IN ALL.

2. SIAD SPENT INITIAL HOUR REVIEWING FIRST DECADE OF SOMALI INDEPENDENCE AND PROGRESS MADE SINCE 1969 REVOLUTION. HE DISCUSSED REASONS SOMALIA HAD OPTED FOR SOCIALISM, PROBLEMS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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IGNORANCE, POVERTY AND DISEASE, ETC. ALSO SOMALIA'S DESIRE FOR

FRIENDSHIP WITH US.

3. TURNING TO SENATOR'S VISIT, SIAD SAID REAL PURPOSE OF EXTENDING INVITATION TO SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN WAS NOT RPT NOT TO INFECT BERBERA. OBSERVERS DECEIVED IF THEY THOUGHT THAT WAS HIS PURPOSE. IN EXTENDING INVITATION, HE RECOGNIZED THAT US CONGRESSMEN WOULD BE ACCCOMPANIED BY INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS AND OTHERS. HIS REAL PURPOSE HOWEVER WAS TO GIVE AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN OPPORTUNITY TO WITNESS AT FIRST HAND ENORMOUS PROBLEMS FACING SOMALIA AT PRESENT AND PLANS SOMALIA HAD TAKEN TO RESOLVING THESE DIFFICULTIES. HE THEN MADE PERSONAL APPEAL TO SENATOR TO REMAIN IN SOMALIA ADDITIONAL DAY BEYOND JULY 5 DEPARTURE DATE SO THAT SOMALI GOVT COULD TAKE GROUP TO RESETTLEMENT AREAS
IN SOTH, WHERE
GROUP COULD SEE EFFECTS OF DROUGHT AND PROGRESS MADE FOR NOMAD RESETTLEMENT. (FYI SENATOR REPLIED THAT HIS WASHINGTON SCHEDULE PRECLUDED REMAINING ADDITIONAL DAY END FYI)

4. REGARDING BERBERA ISSUE, SIAD RECALLED HIS CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT FORD IN WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER, 1974 AND THAT ASSURANCES HE HAD GIVEN THAT THERE WERE NO RPT NO SOVIET BASES IN SOMALIA. DESPITE THOSE ASSURANCES, USG OFFICIALS STILL CLAIMING SOVIET BASE LOCATED IN SOMALIA. SUCH STATEMENTS WERE MADE ON BEHALF OF SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS IN US WHO HAD SIMILARLY DECEIVED AMERICAN PUBLIC IN PAST. US INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM HAD SERVED SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS. IN VIETNAM AMERICAN PEOPLE HAD LOST BILLIONS OF DOLLARS; AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN LIVES LOST (SIC) AS RESULT. STATEMENTS ALLEGING THAT SOVIET UNION MAINTAINED BASE IN SOMALIA WERE FALSE, AS SENATOR WOULD SEE FOR HIMSELF. US SPY CAMD AS COULD NO RPT NO LONGER BE BELIEVED.

5. SENATOR BARTLETT SAID HE WAS WELL AWARE OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S COMMENTS ABOUT BERBERA, AND THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH PRESIDENT SIAD'S DENIALS AS WELL. HE HAD ACCEPTED SIAD'S INVITATION TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER. SENATOR THEN SHOWED SIAD PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF BERBERA AND COLLECTED IN UNCLASSIFIED BRIEFING BOOK. HE BEGAN WITH ERTS PHOTOGRAPHY AND CONCLUDED WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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RECONNAISANCE PHOTOS OF BERBERA FACILITIES. HE IDENTIFIED FOR SIAD EACH OF THE INSTALLATIONS SHOWN IN PHOTOGRAPHY, INCLUDING SOVIET BARRACKS SHIP, COMMUNICATIONS SITES, MISSILE HANDLING FACILITY, HIGH BAY CHECKOUT, ETC. SENATE STAFF MEMBER REXROAD SHOWED SOMALI SRC MEMBERS SIMILAR PHOTOS FROM SECOND BOOK.

6. SIAD EXAMINED US PHOTOGRAPH BUT DID NOT RPT NOT IMMEDIATELY COMMENT AS SENATOR BARTLETT EXPLAINED THAT HE WOULD NEED TIME

TO EXPLORE FACILITIES. SENATOR SAID C-130 WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN BERBERA INSPECTION, THAT IT WOULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TIME ON THE GROUD AT BERBERA, AND THAT TIME WAS ESSENTIAL FOR HIS INSPECTION TOUR.

7. AFTER REVIEW OF PHOTOGRAPHS, SIAD AGAIN DISCLAIMED EXISTENCE OF SOVIET BASE AND SHIFTED HIS ATTACK. HE ASKED FOR DEFINITION OF MILITARY BASE. WHAT WAS A BASE? FOR HIM, BASE MEANT LOGISTICAL CAPABILITY, HOSPITALS, BARRACKS, AND OTHER INSTALLATIONS. IT ALSO MEANT THAT ONE NATION HAD SURRENDERED SOVEREIGNTY TO ANOTHER FOR OCCUPATION OF ITS TERRITORY. THIS WAS DEFINITION OF BASE AND HE HAD NOT RPT NOT GIVEN SOVIET UNION BASE IN SOMALIA.

8. SIAD THEN ASKED IF A SINGLE FACILITY OR A SINGLE ROOM COULD BE A BASE. DURING VISIT OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS TO BERBERA JUNE 28, SOMALI OFFICIALS HAD DENIED THEIR ACCESS TO ROOMS AT ONE SITE (I.E., MISSILE STORAGE AND HANDLING FACILITY). JOURNALISTS HAD INSISTED ON INSPECTING ROOMS THEMSELVES. THIS WAS CLEAR VIOLATION OF SOMALI SOVEREIGNTY AND INSULT TO SOMALI HOSPITALITY AS WELL. THERE WERE SOME AREAS OF SOVEREIGNTY WHICH SOMALIA COULD NOT RPT NOT SURRENDER. IF JOURNALISTS HAD USED THEIR IMAGINATIONS, THEY MIGHT WELL IMAGINE WHAT LAY BEYOND THOSE DOORS -- I.E., SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND ROUNDS OF NAVAL AMMUNITION-- BUT THEY HAD INSISTED ON PHYSICAL INSPECTION, WHICH HAD BEEN DENIED.

9. SIAD RECALLED THAT HE HAD TOLD PRESIDENT FORD THAT SOMALIA HAD GIVEN FACILITIES TO THE USSR. HE DID NOT RPT NOT DENY THAT. SO PHOTO OF SOVIET SHIP IN BERBERA HARBOR MEANT NOTHING. US SHIPS MIGHT ALSO BE GIVEN FACILITIES AND FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM WASHING
IN IN OCTOBER, 1974, HE HAD GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS TO
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GSDR OFFICIALS TO ARRANGE FOR US NAVAL VISIT. UNFORTUNATELY, INSTRUCTIONS HAD GONE ASTRAY. MORE RECENTLY, NEW INSTRUCTIONS HAD BEEN ISSUED AND EMBASSY HAD BEEN GIVEN SUGGESTED DATES FOR SHIP VISIT. (FYI I ASSUMED HE WAS REFERRING TO AMBASSADOR ADDOU'S RECENT STATEMENTS REGARDING AN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER SHIP VISIT
END FYI)

10. SENATOR BARTLETT PRESSED SIAD ON RESTRICTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE IMPOSED UPON HIM AT BERBERA. HE HAD COME LONG WAY TO VISIT BERBERA AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT HE WOULD HAVE UN LIMITED
ACCESS. HE WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, BY TENOR OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS, WHICH SUGGESTED THAT HE MIGHT NOT RPT NOT BE PERMITTED FULL ACCESS AS PROMISED. IF BARRIERS WERE IMPOSED, THEN THIS WOULD BE REFLECTED IN HIS CONCLUSIONS AND PURPOSE OF VISIT WOULD NOT RPT

NOT BE ACHIEVED. HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT BEING GIVEN SUFFICIENT TIME AT BERBERA TO MAKE FULL INSPECTION TOUR. USE OF C-130 WOULD GIVE GROUP ADDITIONAL TIME AND HE BELIEVED FULL DAY WOULD BE NEEDED.

11. SIAD REPLIED THAT SENATOR COULD GO WHEREVER HE WISHED TO GO. HE SAID HE WOULD SURRENDER THAT FINAL PIECE OF SOVEREIGNTY TO SENATOR FOR HIS INSPECTION TOUR/ IF ADDITIONAL TIME REQUIRED, THEN SENATOR WOULD BE GIVEN ADDITIONAL TIME.

12. COMMENT: IT IS LIKELY THAT HOUSE GROUP LED BY CONGRESSMEN STRATTON WILL BE GIVEN COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENOQN PERHAPS ON EVENING OF THEIR ARRIVAL ON JULY 5. IF SO, THEN SIAD WILL PROBABLY MAKE SIMILAR POINTS.

HAMRICK

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